GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2888
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2000
MALARIA CASES
PALANIYAPPA GOUNDER KUMARASAMY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Chennai records the largest number of malaria cases among all the metropolitan cities of South and South East Asia;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that though Chennai is the epicentre of the transmission of malaria in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to tackle malaria in Chennai?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a)&(b) As per reports received from the State Health Authorities, Chennai recorded maximum number of Malaria cases amongst all the Metropolitan cities in the country during 1996, 1997 and 1998. The main urban vector Anopheles stephensi, which is responsible for transmission of Malaria is prevalent in Chennai. These vector species breed in over-head tanks, cisterns, construction sites, underground tanks, unused wells, etc. Besides, due to irregular water supply people resort to storing water which further lead to increase in Vector density.

(b) The Control measures undertaken to tackle Malaria in Chennai include:-

(1) Intensification of treatment of the patients through hospitals, dispensaries and Malaria clinics.

(2) Intensified anti-larval operations at weekly intervals.

(3) Source reduction by filling up low lying areas, emptying of water containers once a week.

(4) Intensified IEC activities to create public awareness for prevention of Malaria and mosquitogenic conditions.

(5) Spraying of Pyrethrum Extt.2% to kill the infective mosquitoes as per Modified Plan of Operations. The Government of Tamil Nadu is seized of the Malaria problem in Tamil Nadu and Chennai in particular and has undertaken appropriate measures for its containment. The Directorate of National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP) has also released Rs.21 lakhs to Chennai Municipa Corporation for carrying out IEC activities for creating public awareness for prevention and control of Malaria.